

Title IIA Cliff Notes for Consolidated Federal Program (CFP) Leaders (June 2009)

Title IIA funds are **professional development** funds; **class size reduction** was also included as a separate category. The purpose is to increase student achievement by improving teacher and principal quality. Schools are required to assess professional development needs, use effective professional development practices and evaluate the outcomes of PD investments.

The **National Staff Development Council** released an excellent report on research based professional development entitled: **Professional Learning in the Learning Profession**. This report emphasizes high-quality, sustained professional learning throughout the school year, at every grade level and in every subject. Effective professional development would be:

- **Intensive, ongoing and connected to practice**
- **Focused on student learning and teaching specific curriculum content**
- **Aligned with school improvement priorities and goals**
- **Building strong working relationships among teachers**

This report can be accessed at: <http://www.nsdc.org/stateproflearning.cfm>

Effective IIA Strategies:

Since IIA funds are designated for PD, you do not need to include language such as “to provide PD” or “to support training”. A good IIA strategy will include detailed information, including:

- The **specific topic**: instead of a general description like “improve reading instruction”, be specific as in “aligning math curriculum with GLEs in grades 1-5”. The expectation is that the strategy will focus on improving student outcomes.
- The **type of learning activity** (name of course or conference, coaching, workshop, curriculum or assessment development, study group/PLC, etc)
- **Who is providing** the PD: include the specific name of the presenter or provider organization
- **Who is participating**: characteristics such as grade levels, subject areas, program, etc
- **What identified need is being addressed...**
- Clear information on **what IIA funds are paying for** (teacher leaders, consultant, etc)

You can use Title IIA funds for:

- **Recruitment and retention** of highly qualified teachers
- **Improve knowledge** of teachers, principals and in appropriate cases paraprofessionals in:
 - **core academic subjects**
 - **effective instructional strategies**
 - **use of state content and achievement standards** in core content
 - meeting needs of **students with different learning styles**
 - **improving student behavior** in the classroom
 - **involving parents** in the child’s education
 - **use of data** to improve instruction and student outcomes
 - **integrating technology** into curriculum and instruction

Most Commonly Used Title IIA Strategies:

- **Improve core content**
- **HQT...**improve teacher quality, recruit and retain
- **Teacher leaders** to provide embedded PD
- **Use of data** to improve curriculum and instruction
- **Mentoring** new teachers
- **Integrating technology** into curriculum and instruction
- **Instructional strategies**
- **Curriculum mapping, aligning curriculum with state content and student achievement standards**
- Meeting needs of students with **different learning styles...ELL**
- **Improving student behavior** in the classroom
- Providing regular opportunities for **teachers to collaborate to examine student work and teaching practices**
- **Conference Attendance:** Describe how content is part of school or district wide educational improvement plans and how information will be offered to broader education community
- **Class Size Reduction Strategy language:**
Note: Class size reduction strategies must include an HQT teacher. In addition, there are two types of class size strategies:
 1. Creating additional classes in a particular grade or subject; specify number of students before class size reduction and the number after
 2. Creating smaller instructional groups, such as team teaching or dividing students by topic

You cannot use Title IIA funds for:

- **Mini grants**
- **“Placeholders”** for PD activities not yet developed, e.g., ESA courses
- **Purchase of materials, texts or supplies for student use**
- **Purchase of teacher texts, materials or supplies** unless part of PD activity
- **Staff salaries** unless the funding is for an HQT for class size reduction or staff to provide PD
- **Stipends that supplant salaries;** you must state that stipends are for work “beyond contractual obligations”
- **Remedial instruction**
- **Early education PD** or staff unless early ed is a designated priority in your needs assessment
- Developing and disseminating **information to the public**

Notes...

- **Vermont Data Consortium language:**
Membership...Membership in the VT Data Consortium to support educators in utilizing a data warehouse and conduct needs assessments and evaluations to improve instruction and outcomes for students.
Professional Development...Pay VT Data Consortium to support to educators in the use of the Tetra Data Warehouse tool.